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## **Administration's weak enforcement hurts citizens and legal immigrants**

**Washington, DC** – Ranking Member Lamar Smith today criticized the Obama administration for its refusal to enforce immigration laws. He noted that unemployment could be cut by half if workplace immigration laws were enforced.

**Ranking Member Smith:** "Nowhere is the administration's weak record more apparent than in workplace immigration enforcement.

In the last year, administrative arrests (arrests of illegal immigrants who will be placed into deportation proceedings) have fallen 68%, criminal arrests are down 60%, criminal indictments have fallen 58%, and criminal convictions are down 63%.

With a 10 percent unemployment rate, now is the time for the Obama administration to stand up for citizens and legal immigrant workers. Now is the time for the President to enforce immigration laws. When the jobs stolen by illegal immigrants are recovered for citizens and legal workers, American workers benefit.

President Obama could create eight million jobs for citizens and legal workers simply by enforcing immigration laws. Instead, weak immigration enforcement policies hurt citizens and legal immigrants. It is hard to conceive of a worse time to implement such policies, but that is exactly what the administration has done."